

17. A substance that is determined to be an inhibitor or ligand by the method as claimed in any one of claims 1 or 3.

REMARKS

After entering this Preliminary Amendment, claims 1 and 3-17 are pending in this application. Claims 1, 4, and 17 were amended in order to more clearly define the subject matter of the invention and not to overcome prior art. Claims 4 and 17 were amended to correct their dependency. Support for these amendments can be found in originally filed claims 1-2, 4, and 17. Accordingly, no new matter has been added by these amendments.

CONCLUSIONS

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

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Appendix to Response and Amendment of July 9, 2001

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

On Page 13, the paragraph starting at line 15 has been amended as follows:

Those substances producing measured values of 49% or less, decreasing down to zero, have to be distinguished from the substances of the invention. For example, **[the prior art,]** 200 $\mu\text{mol/l}$ doxycycline (K. U. Weithmann et al., Inflamm. Res. 46:246-252 (1997)) produced a value of 0.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1, 4, and 17 has been amended as follows:

1. A method to determine whether a substance is an inhibitor or a ligand of a protein, comprising:

incubating said substance with a mixture, wherein said mixture comprises:

- a) a protein, which contains at least one catalytic domain and at least one binding domain,
- b) at least one marker substrate, which binds to the catalytic domain and is converted by the protein, and
- c) at least one substrate, which can bind to the catalytic domain and to the binding domain; and

[determining whether the marker is converted by the protein]

comparing the conversion of the marker substrate in the presence of the test substance with the corresponding conversion in control mixtures A and B,

wherein the control mixture A comprises the protein and the marker substrate; and the control mixture B comprises the protein, the substrate and the marker substrate.

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4. A test kit for carrying out the method as claimed in either one of claims 1[-] or 3, comprising:
- a) a protein which has at least one catalytic domain and at least one binding domain,
 - b) a marker substrate which binds to the catalytic domain and is converted by the protein, and
 - c) a substrate which can bind to the catalytic domain and to the binding domain.
17. A substance [**which**] that is determined to be an inhibitor or ligand by the method as claimed in any one of claims 1[-] or 3.